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## **National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21\***

### **Mozambique**

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## **I. Methodology**

1. The Republic of Mozambique has been assessed under the Universal Periodic Review in February 2011. The final adoption of the report took place later in June. At that time, the Government of Mozambique accepted 161 recommendations from a total of 169. In 2013, when the Government presented the mid-term review, the report noted that we had succeeded in implementing about 50% of the recommendations. Today, we are happy to report that the Government managed to implement about 90% of the recommendations, with the remainder in progress. The present report reflects the progress made in implementing the recommendations under consideration and it recognizes that there is more to be done.

2. The Government believes that the evaluation is in the interest of Mozambicans. It underlies our commitment towards this exercise, the obligation of the Government to ensure that Mozambicans enjoy the dignity and respect due to them. Thus, we view the Universal Periodic Review as yet another performance evaluation tool of the government to Mozambicans.

3. The responses to the recommendations are addressed in the report through an analysis of three domains, namely (i) Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, (ii) Civil and Political Rights and (iii) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Each domain covers many other distinct areas containing several recommendations contained in the Operational Matrix of the Universal Periodic Review Action Plan - Mozambique 2012 - 2015. This is an instrument which was developed specifically to ensure that the recommendations are taken into account and implemented by the relevant institutions through institutional strategic planning in a holistic and systematic form. It serves as the basis of this exercise.

4. The responsibility for preparing the report fell on the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Human Rights under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs (MJCR). For that purpose, consultation seminars were held in all 11 provinces of the country. The main purpose was to jointly identify the progress and challenges to the implementation of human rights in the areas of competence of each of the participants. The process included broad participation of all stakeholders in this area, including representatives of Civil Society Organizations. The information collected was compiled into a draft report which was then discussed and adopted in a national workshop held in Maputo. Subsequently, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Mozambique (the Cabinet) approved the Report.

## **II. Legal and institutional basis for the promotion and protection of human rights in Mozambique**

### **A. Constitutional Framework**

5. Mozambique has been demonstrating its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights by fully enshrining, in Title III of its Constitution, the rights, duties, freedoms, individual and collective fundamental guarantees. Such a commitment is also evident with the fact that the country has subscribed to most international legal instruments on this subject and on the positive cooperation with international and regional special procedures mechanisms.

## **B. Legal and Political Framework**

6. The Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique (CRM), under article 134, prescribes a separation and interdependence of powers<sup>1</sup>. The exercise of powers is guaranteed by (5) sovereign organs, namely: the President of the Republic; the Assembly of the Republic (Parliament); the Government; the Courts; and the Constitutional Council.<sup>2</sup>

7. Constitutionally, Mozambique is a secular State based on the principle of separation between the State and the religious denominations. However, the existing religious denominations enjoy freedom in their practices and the State recognizes and values them and promotes tolerance. It is under this framework that more than 500 officially registered religious groups operate in the country in perfect harmony.

8. Mozambique is a State of legal pluralism, that is, the formal mechanisms of conflict resolution coexist with customary rules provided the latter do not contradict the values and principles enshrined in the CRM.

9. The death penalty is expressly prohibited under paragraph 2, article 40 of the CRM. It was first abolished upon the enactment of the 1990 Constitution and the revision made in 2004 re-affirmed this landmark legal and political achievement of the Mozambican people.

10. The CRM assures freedom of association and the citizens' right to free association, as long as such associations do not disturb the established public order, public security and the welfare of other citizens.

## **C. Petition**

11. Petition right in Mozambique is a constitutional command, as contained in Article 79 of the CRM. The requirement of restoring the citizens' rights is not only limited to petitions. It also includes other forms such as complaints and fault-finding. Citizens have the right to demand the restitution of their rights through Parliament, National Commission of Human Rights, Ombudsman, the Courts, the Prosecuting Department, the General Labor Inspectorate and by means of administrative procedure.

## **III. Promotion and protection of human rights in Mozambique**

### **A. Ratification of International Instruments**

12. Mozambique has a long tradition of ratification of the core human rights instruments that goes back since her first years of independence. It is one of the priorities of its foreign policy. In this connection, the country is party to most regional and international legal instruments on human rights. As from the last review, the country has ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

### **B. Cooperation with the Human Rights International Mechanisms**

13. The basis for cooperation between the Republic of Mozambique and the United Nations Human Rights System is the country's compliance with the accepted treaties. One of the most commendable aspects in the relationship with the United Nations system has been the good terms of cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights, in particular its Southern Africa regional branch as well as the United Nations Country Team, with particular focus on UNDP, from which Mozambique has benefited technical assistance in various fields. In the context of the African Union (AU), Mozambique has had a good dialogue with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Our country has been making its best efforts to comply with its obligations, including receiving visits of mandate holders of special procedures, including special rapporteurs for their promotion missions whenever there is a request for it. Visits by some Rapporteurs have not yet materialized due to scheduling reasons. This includes the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It is our desire that the visit will take place as soon as possible.

14. The Republic of Mozambique has made great efforts to regularize its reporting situation to the specialized UN and AU mechanisms. The last reports were presented to the Human Rights Committee and Committee against Torture, both in October 2013 in Geneva and to the ACHPR, in June 2014. In this regard, it should be noted that the Government has already responded to the issues contained in paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of the recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee, as a follow up.

15. The Reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Persons with Disabilities (CPD) have already been submitted to the pertinent committees. The country is just waiting for its scheduling. The report to the Committee against all Forms of Racial Discrimination will be submitted soon.

### **C. Institutional Framework**

16. The institutional framework for human rights promotion and protection in Mozambique has two main actors who complement each other:

#### **State Structure**

17. At the state level, there are three distinct institutional levels with a mandate to promote and defend human rights. This reflects the division of powers which characterizes the Mozambican constitutional order:

- The Executive branch, with the MJCR as the main institution working in the human rights field in its task as the coordinator of this area within the Government
- the Legislative branch exercised by the Assembly of the Republic (AR) whose organizational structure includes the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Human Rights and Legality and the Petitions Committee;
- the Judicial and the Public Ministry.

#### **National Institutions on Human Rights**

18. In compliance with its international commitments, particularly the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan, the State has been working to strengthen the principle of participation, creating new spaces and tools to promote dialogue and foster monitoring of public policies on human rights. In this connection, two national human rights institutions were created in the country in accordance with the Paris Principles.

##### *(1) National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR)*

19. Law 33/2009 of 22 December establishes the National Commission on Human Rights with a mandate to promote and protect human rights in Mozambique. This independent body became operational in September 2012, soon after the swearing in of its

eleven (11) members before the President of the Republic. As from its start-up, the NCHR has undertaken the following actions: Contributions to the Parliament on the Revision of the Constitution, the drafting of its Strategic Plan, the holding of training courses on human rights, including the Right to Adequate Food.

20. The NCHR, under the law that creates it, shall submit, every year, an Activity Report to the Parliament and to the President of the Republic. However, since its start-up in 2012, it has not submitted any report yet. The NCHR has practical limitations due to the absence of a solid administrative structure and a nationwide coverage. Efforts are being made to devise a better strategy in order to fully accomplish its mandate, crucial for the human rights promotion and protection in Mozambique.

(2) *The Ombudsman*

21. The Ombudsman was elected by the Parliament in May 2012. His main duty is "to ensure the citizens' rights, the protection of legality and justice in the action of Public Administration." This state body has appropriate facilities and works with 12 collaborators. The Ombudsman Office gets funds from the state Budget and support from cooperating partners'.

22. As from 2013, the Ombudsman has been submitting an annual report to the Parliament. The report is then published in the Bulletin of the Republic and it includes detailed account of its activities, prospects, challenges, conclusions and recommendations. The 2013 and 2014 Statements point out that "there were large numbers of citizens lodging complaints, petitions and claims". He adds that in the period between June 2012 and March 2013, 249 cases were reported, from which 161 were closed and 88 were retained". In the period that goes from April 2013 to March 2014, 315 cases were reported, of which 158 were closed and 157 were retained."

23. As part of his mandate, the Ombudsman makes recommendations to the institutions against which the complaint was made in order to correct them. In this context, from April 2013 to March 2014, the Ombudsman issued 26 recommendations to various entities. The handling of the processes demonstrates the need to increase the number of personnel with adequate training to cope with the demand. On the other hand, there is a need to adopt a better strategy to carry out the Ombudsman's Action, which may include the revision of the legislation in order to fill the gaps and make it more active and effective.

### **Civil Society Organizations**

24. The Mozambican civil society organizations (CSO) play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights. It is important to highlight that the CSOs operate in compliance with the constitutional rules. Their establishment is based on articles 51 and 52 of the CRM combined with Law N<sup>o</sup>. 8/91, of 18 July, entitled Law of Associations. In Mozambique there are over 1500 organizations working in the field of human rights. Most of such organizations work on assistance and legal representation, monitoring of the detention conditions at police stations and penitentiaries, drafting of "shadow" reports on various human rights issues, reports of cases of violation of fundamental rights, lobbying and legal advocacy, and monitoring of public policies focusing on approach to human rights.

## **IV. Achievements, challenges and constraints in the human rights promotion and protection**

### **A. Political and Civil Rights Situation**

#### **Political Process and Elections**

25. The democratic process in the Republic of Mozambique has been strengthened to the extent that the Constitution, with other legal norms, provides citizens with the right to change the Government by peaceful means. In practice, that right is exercised through regular and periodic elections which are held every (5) years, free and fair, based on universal suffrage. So far, five (5) general elections, presidential and legislative, were held with success in 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014.

26. Still in this sphere of action, the decentralization process which was launched by the Government, in line with its vision to achieve a fully decentralized governance system, is taking place satisfactorily. The example is the establishment of local authorities and the institutionalization of Local Advisory Councils. Thus the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, through this process, is committed to supporting local authorities to increase their levels of accountability and transparency in the use of resources and enable citizens to participate freely in the decision making process. Regarding municipal decentralization, four (4) municipal elections were held successfully in 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013 to elect Mayors and members of municipal assemblies. The Government has also established more districts to improve service delivery through decentralization. Thus the number of districts has increased from 128 to 148.

#### **Correctional Services**

27. The penitentiary system is one of the pillars of justice administration system in Mozambique. It is also one of its biggest challenges although some positive steps have been made in the efforts to reduce its negative impact on the issue of human rights. In this regard, the Government of Mozambique has been adopting initiatives in order to ensure compliance with the CRM fundamental principles for the establishment of the Rule of Law, in line with international standards. It was following the enactment of Law n° 3/2013 of 16 January, establishing the National Penitentiary Service (SERNAP), that a new dynamics in the correctional services was achieved. The Law was further reinforced by Decrees n° 63 and 64, of 6 December 2013, which approve the SERNAP Organic Statute and SERNAP Staff Regulations to fulfill the duties of Prison Guard, as well as SERNAP Internal Regulation.

28. At the end of the first two weeks of 2015, the Correctional Facilities nationwide communicated a total of 15,946 inmates, of which 10,762 were convicted and 5,184 were preventives. It should be noted that from the total population in prison, 15,520 are male and 426 are female and aged between 16 and just over 65 years; 1,379 especially imputable children from 16 to 18 years of age; 2,753 imputable young from 19 to 21 years; 8,573 young people from 22 to 35 and 3,156 adults from 36 years and older.

29. The Legal Aid to prisoners with no means to hire their own lawyer is still a challenge despite the work done by IPAJ. At the end of September 2015 the number of inmates with access to legal aid was smaller than that of inmates without assistance. The number of preventive inmates with legal aid stood at around 50% and did not differ from that observed in 2014.

30. In general, there is no record of individuals who have completed their sentences and for whatever reason they are at the penitentiary beyond conviction period.

31. The maintenance of Security, Order and Discipline in correctional facilities in the country for the period in analysis was calm, despite some offences. During the first half of 2015, forty (40) disciplinary offenses were recorded and resulted in eight (08) communications; twenty five (25) disciplinary proceedings and seven (07) dismissals.

32. As a rule, inmates are entitled to medical care, to profess their religion and worship provided that they do not disturb order and discipline. They may receive regular visits from family members and other beloved ones, as well as get food up to three times a day, receive information (newspapers, magazines, books and letters) and enjoy the practice of recreational and sporting activities. They also receive schooling and vocational training. From all the convicts, 2,339 (15.70%) inmates are engaged in Economic Activities, of which 2,167 are male and 172 are female. The remaining 12,556 (84.3%) are involved in occupational activities.

33. With regard to measures and alternative sentences to imprisonment adopted by the Penal Code, Law 35/2014 of December 31, we have to state that its effective implementation depends on the approval of the Penal Procedure Code and the Correctional Execution Code, instruments that complement matters contained in the Penal Code. Thus, it is understood that in the context of the Penal Code in force, the existence of adjective law does not clearly appear, except for the educational and social measures, the fine for prison substitution, among other administrative measures, which in terms of the adjective law in force, may be applied without taking into account the reform which is expected from the Penal Procedure Code and from the approval of the Correctional Execution Code.

34. Despite these achievements, there are still challenges in the Correctional and other detention Facilities, although improvements were made in certain units, with emphasis on places with very high overcrowding rates. It is expected that this problem will be minimized with the construction of more prison complexes, the possible use of open correctional centers and the introduction of measures and alternative sentences to imprisonment.

### **The Police**

35. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 254 of the CRM, the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) has, as its main objective, the guarantee of law and order, the protection of the safety of persons and property, public order, respect for the rule of law and strict observance of fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. While respecting the principle of multiparty, paragraph 2 of the same Article provides that the Police are non-partisan.

36. As a public service, the PRM is integrated into the Ministry of Interior. It comprises the following areas: Public Order Police and Security; the Criminal Investigation Police; the Border Police and Coastal, Lakeside and river Police. The Units are, among others, the Rapid Intervention Unit; High-profile individuals protection Unit; Special Operations Unit; Canine Unit. In constitutional and legal terms, the PRM is headed by a General Commander assisted by a Deputy General Commander, both appointed by the President in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Defence and Security Forces.

37. For training, the PRM has a Practical Police Training School and Police Sciences Academy geared toward the professionalization of its agents, through workshops, and degree of specialization. Also being conducted are courses on enhancement and updating for the officers at different levels of command, direction and leadership. The curriculum beyond the traditionally specific subjects include modules on the observance and respect for human rights also contemplates a subject on human rights and gender based violence, focusing on the considered vulnerable groups.

38. Over the past few years, poor police performance (excessive use of force, improper treatment of detainees at police stations, corruption in the public way) of some agents of the PRM earned attention from some national and international CSOs, UN and AU specialized organs.

39. Despite these situations, the PRM has been making significant progress in improving the quality of services provided to citizens, having introduced the green line of denunciation of deviant behaviour and, where proven disciplinary proceedings took place. Severe sanctions have been imposed on some police agents, including expulsion.

40. The challenges of this sector continue to focus on the criteria for recruitment, training, performance evaluation of the members of PRM in order to raise the level of professionalism and efficiency in carrying out their duties under the law and other regulations that govern police conduct.

41. With regard to the achievement of goals, the sector has been developing several actions aimed at promoting its public image, namely:

- Promotion and improvement of police inspection activities through the reintroduction in the Organic Statute of the PRM of the steering Inspection Police;
- Consolidation and creation of more Community Security Councils, with a view to a greater community participation in the strengthening and ensuring the order and security of the communities themselves;
- Increase of the number of Offices for Assistance to Family and Children Victims of Violence. These services, in addition to dealing with domestic violence, include protection as well as preventing and combating juvenile delinquency;
- Increase of the number of police-community liaison meetings;
- The reintroduction of the program "Law and Order" in the context of preventing and combating crime and civic education of citizens in matters of self-protection and denunciation of criminals;
- Consolidation of the "Programme safe routes to safe schools".

#### **Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons**

42. The constitutional provision of the right to asylum contained in article 20 of the CRM and the regional and international instruments on the subject ratified by the Republic of Mozambique constitute the legal basis for recognizing the need for granting asylum and refugee status to foreign nationals and stateless persons by the Mozambican State.

43. Given its strategic geographical position, Mozambique has been a privileged country for the entry and transit of refugees. In this context, the Government has been cooperating with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in assisting refugees and asylum seekers. In total the country hosts 20.884 refugees and asylum seekers from various African countries. Once the asylum and the Status of Refugees have been granted to the applicants, they are provided with food, groceries and medicines, as well as the right of their children to education and employment. In 2014, Mozambique acceded to the two Conventions relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) and on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961).

#### **Combating corruption and promoting transparency**

44. Corruption has been a significant impediment to good governance in Mozambique. Therefore, its fight is one of the State's top priorities. The aim is to promote the citizens' social well-being. It is also a framework for the fighting against absolute poverty. Thus, the



Quinquennium Government Program 2015-2019 outlines, among other measures, legal, institutional, economic and social reforms. They aim at strengthening good governance to improve the delivery of public services and to contribute to the economic and social development. The Government is conscious of the fact that the prevalence of corruption has negative effects on the country's efforts to promote the socio-economic and political development. Corruption tends to limit citizen access to public goods and services. This phenomenon can also be associated with poverty. Its prevalence tends to exclude socially vulnerable people to freely access goods and services.

45. Hence, the crucial role of the Central Anti-Corruption Office (GCCC). This is an autonomous unit under the authority of the Attorney-General, with its own budget, tasked with ensuring the highest levels of transparency and integrity. Worth noting is the approval of Law 15/2012 which "establishes mechanisms to protect rights and interests of victims, complainants, witnesses, and other procedural elements" as well as Law No. 16/2012, the Public Probity Law, under which, taking into account transparency and in order to combat corruption, regulates conflicts of interest of state officials and employees. It requires the declaration of assets by those state officials. For the monitoring and implementation of these important measures which strengthen the fight against corruption, the Ethics Commission was established to implement the Law 16/2012 and is in the process of setting up a Central Office for Victims Protection, complainants, witnesses and other procedural elements under the law No. 16/2012.

46. The 2013 Annual Statement of the Attorney General indicates that 148 cases have been prosecuted for corruption in 2012. Legal proceedings on misuse of state or public funds or assets involved 104 defendants and an approximate value totaling 62,930,984.77 MT<sup>3</sup>. Thus, despite the World Bank's Governance Indicators and other agencies showing corruption as endemic and a serious problem in the country, the above and other measures show that the state has been taking strong measures to mitigate, if not to eliminate, the problem.

### **Gender**

47. With regard to women's rights and their representation in public life, the country has had a remarkable progress. The first Constitution enacted in 1975 advocated the equality before the law and the 1990 amended Constitution emphasized "*the equality in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life.*"

48. The Parliament is chaired by a woman. It has 100 women out of the 250 members, which corresponds to 40% of seats. At the Standing Committee of the National Assembly there are six women representing 35%. Two women are Heads of Parliamentary Group, one Parliamentary Rapporteur, three chairpersons of specialized committees and one specialized committee's rapporteur. In the Cabinet, the women ministers represent 28.6% while the Vice-ministers represent 20%. At the local government level, 4 out of 11 Provincial Governors are Women, representing 36%. The percentage of District Administrators who are women stands at 27% and the Heads of administrative posts represent 17%.

49. The phenomenon of discrimination against girls in access to education still exists. However, a tendency to improvement has been registered as compared to the past. The school enrollments have increased and the available data show a downward trend in difference between boys and girls. Literacy has also improved among women, although there is still a big difference between men and women. National health indicators have begun to follow international trends: women have higher life expectancy than men. However, this trend may be reversed due to the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in women who are more vulnerable and show higher mortality rates related to that disease.

50. As a corollary to the strong sensitivity of Mozambican society regarding the gender dimension, the Government has established, since the mid-1990s, the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare, now referred to as the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCAS).

51. The principle of gender equality contained in the CRM<sup>4</sup> is the basis of the Gender Policy and Implementation Strategy. Mozambique signed the Beijing Platform for Action and its Action Plan. The country is party to initiatives taken at regional level (SADC Gender Declaration, Solemn Declaration of Gender in Africa, Optional Protocol to ACHPR on the Rights of Women in Africa) reaffirming the priority of gender integration in the various policies, strategies and governance programs. The resolution approving the National Action Plan for the Advancement of Women (PNAM) is one of the prominent tools for speeding up the process for gender integration and equality.

52. Despite these figures and the adoption of laws and policies on gender, discrimination against women is still a major challenge. Many women, especially elderly are accused of involvement in witchcraft, thus becoming victims of violence. This adds to the challenge of approving a Law on Succession that does forbid any form of discrimination against women as regards the succession in the event of death of a spouse, as it currently happens, whereby she is deprived of any rights to the property acquired in common life, if they were not legally married.

53. In the context of gender-based violence, the Government of Mozambique has implemented the Integrated Multi-Sectorial Assistance Mechanism for Victims of Violence, approved by the Cabinet at the 17th Ordinary Session, on May 22, 2012. The purpose of this mechanism is to guide a national and integrated response to violence against women, ensuring that all stakeholders in the area, in particular, police officers, health, social welfare and other officials, work together in order to respond and follow up all cases of gender-based violence.

## **B. Economic, Social and Cultural Situation**

### **Development**

54. Due to its geographical location, Mozambique is prone to natural disasters. In 2015 the country was ravaged by floods which negatively affected the economic and social activity of the country. The calamity ravaged, in particular, the northern part of the country, with greater impact on the provinces of Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Zambezia. Agriculture, transport, energy and trade sectors were the most affected, along with human settlements, education and health infrastructures.

55. Among the direct impact, natural disasters affected 188,000 people, destroyed 10,000 houses, 7 health units and 2,000 classrooms, affecting at least 150,000 students. In the area of economic infrastructure, the movement of people and goods from the South-Central and North regions was curtailed for about 30 days, due to the serious damage of the National Road number 1, at Mocuba district in Zambezia province. There was a cut-off in the supply of electricity to central and northern regions of the country due to the fall of 10 power transmission towers in the high voltage 220 KV line. In the agricultural sector, the floods affected 110,602 hectares, of which 72,965 hectares of various crops were lost, corresponding to 1.6% of the total sown area. This affected the production and income of about 85 thousand families.

56. Important factors contributed to counter the negative effect of those natural disasters. Among them, was the prompt response by the Government in emergency replacement, road maintenance and power supply as well as the allocation of agricultural commodities to the affected families for the second cropping season. In addition, one can

also add the humanitarian assistance provided by the Government, by the domestic solidarity movement and development partners. The combined efforts contributed to the rapid recovery of the victims' lives, control of inflation, as well as the resumption of economic and social activity in the affected areas. These actions created conditions for maintaining macro-economic stability that the country has been recording in the last years.

### **The land**

57. Land in Mozambique is owned by the State as stipulated in article 100 of the CRM. The access to land, its use and exploration, is regulated by Law No. 19/97 of 1 October, known as the "Land Act". As a legal document, the "Land Act" is a prudent and innovative instrument. On one hand, it materializes the inclusion of customary and traditional rules, protecting farmers who exploit the land. On the other hand, the Law gives extensive guarantees and real possibilities to all other stakeholders for commercial exploitation and use of land. As a general principle (Article 3), land is a state property. It cannot be sold or otherwise alienated or mortgaged. In this context, the correct management of the natural resources must be taken into account. It has to be carried out in a responsible manner taking into account the respect for the citizens' rights, whether those who are directly involved in labor activities or those who are linked to the areas where the enterprises are based. It was within this context that the Government, in partnership with the civil society, carried out an initiative to draw up an action plan on the relationship between business and human rights.

58. In this perspective, one should always bear in mind the protection of the environment. In Mozambique, sustainable environment is a constitutionally guaranteed right contained in article 90 of the CRM, which states, in its paragraph 1, that "*every citizen shall have the right to live in a sustainable environment and has the duty to protect it.*" To materialize this constitutional provision, the Government has established the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development, which is the central body devoted to promote and implement the environmental policies.

### **The Right to Education**

59. The Mozambican legal system provides for the right to education to all citizens, in accordance with the provision of articles 113 and 114 of the CRM. Law No. 6/92 on the National Education System (SNE), expounds the Constitution. The Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty (PARPA II), 2005-2009, in the footsteps of PARPA I (2001-2004), defined literacy and adult education as one of the primary objectives of the educational program. The 2007 Census indicates that the illiteracy rate in the country stands at 50.4%. Later updated by the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, the same rate came down to 48.1%. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2015 will tell the actual literacy situation in the country. The adopted Legal instruments and the policy mentioned above reflect the determination by the Government and the society as a whole to give the education a special space and an increasingly active role in poverty reduction and human development of the country. This is in line with the international commitments undertaken at the Jomtien<sup>5</sup> and Dakar Declarations, among others.

60. Over the past two years, one of the biggest achievements in the education sector was the expansion of the school network throughout the country, with focus on rural areas. As a consequence, the rate of new admissions has increased while the distances travelled by the students have reduced, on average. Statistical data also show an increasing reduction of differences in percentage of enrolments between girls and boys. One aspect to highlight is the introduction of the "civic and moral education" course that includes education on human rights in the curriculum. However, one of the major challenges that remain is the need to improve the quality of education and student retention in the system<sup>6</sup> as the society complains about the poor quality of reading and writing by the pupils. So, at the primary

level, different literacy programs for children, youth and adults, will continue to be offered in partnership with the civil society organizations. Students will be engaged in adult education and developing parenting education programs in coordination with the Primary Education Program.

61. Various activities are being developed, namely:

- Purchasing specific materials - Braille Machinery, Guidelines and Punches, Braille Paper, Sign Language Dictionary, typewriting maps, kits of materials for Adapted Sports, Braille printer for Inclusive Education Resource Centers (CREI), etc.;
- Ongoing teacher training in sign language, Grafia Braille, Diagnostic and orientation;
- Ongoing teacher training on adapted Sport (Inclusive Sport);
- CREI introduction in more provinces out of a total of 26,000 students already in primary education, 670 in secondary education and 27 students in higher education.
- Scholarship Award for students with NEE to attend the Higher Education;
- Designing of special exams for students with NEE.

62. In 2014, the target of the distribution of textbooks has been achieved, whereby a total of 13,139,000 textbooks were made available to all public primary schools in the country against a planned figure of 13,000,000. The number of children sitting on the floor has been further reduced. The teaching and learning conditions have been improved through the distribution of 71.975 desks.

63. The Bilingual education system was introduced in the academic year 2003/2004 as part of the Curriculum Reform of Basic Education, in 23 schools and in 16 languages. In the 2015 academic year, the Bilingual Education comprises 551 schools, 98,179 students, assisted by 2,331 teachers. The number of languages is maintained and there is an ongoing study for the introduction of Cibalke and Cimanika languages from the Manica Province. In 2013, the Ministry of Education hired an external evaluation of the bilingual program which concluded that the system is bringing good results. In the schools where bilingual system is taught, the students have shown better results compared to the monolingual system. However, the study recommended that there is a need to strengthen pedagogical supervision; train teachers; produce additional material and promote methodologies for Bilingual Education. It is important to highlight that the Strategy for the Expansion of Bilingual Education has already been designed and should be submitted to the Cabinet still in 2015. The effective expansion is expected to start in 2017.

64. Regarding the reduction of pupil and teacher ratio, the target is yet to be met. It is still a big challenge, especially in primary education. Starting from a baseline of 65.8 pupils per teacher in 2010, the target is down to 62 in 2014. Thus, the goal set in PARP (60 students per teacher) was not reached due to the increase in school enrollment. This situation overwhelms the great effort of hiring teachers and the construction of school infrastructures throughout the country. The high rate of children enrollment in grade 1 result from the implementation of the communication strategy through radio spots, messages transmitted via church, influential people, theaters, and pamphlets, in order for children to enter the school at the right age and with greater focus on the girl. Thus, besides reducing the ratio teacher/student, other challenges were the need to create institutes and the increased efforts to raise the literacy rate.

65. Regarding the legal instrument to allow the transfer of pregnant girls to night schools, it was noted that since this is a sensitive issue in the society, there is a need to make a cautious decision. In that context, a group was appointed to be advised by different segments of the society on how to handle the matter.

## Housing

66. The CRM, in its article 91, prescribes that housing is a fundamental right of every citizen. With the political, economic and social changes, the Government, in order to facilitate adequate housing supply and a sound living environment, at affordable costs to all levels of society, approved the Policy and Housing Strategy in Mozambique, through resolution N°. 19/2011 of 8 June.

67. In the period 2011-2015, under the Housing Development Fund projects (FFH), 200 houses were built in different parts of the country. A project to build 5000 houses was designed in the Intaka neighborhood, in Matola City, with the aim of promoting social housing to benefit low-income families and young couples. Under the project, 330 houses have already been built.

## Access to water and basic sanitation

68. In Mozambique, water, as a natural resource, is owned by the state and belongs to the public domain, in accordance with article 98 of the CRM. Therefore, the access to water is regulated by the National Water Policy, approved by Resolution No. 46/2007 of 30 October, of the Cabinet. The resolution promotes the principles for increased coverage to reach basic needs for water and sanitation, especially for the poor rural groups, beneficiary participation, decentralization and mobilization of local resources, redefining the role of government as a facilitator, increasing the role of private sector investment and training to all levels. The challenges of water and sanitation sector in Mozambique are numerous and complex. The combination of factors such as low levels of funding, complexity of the sector and a budget allocation definition, contribute to further challenges.

69. With regard to operational water sources in rural areas, in 2010 there were about 17,000 sources. By 2014 the number had increased to 24,679 as a result of the expansion of water supply system and construction of new sources. According to the Social Development Index 2011, in Mozambique, 51.0% of the population drink water from improved sources and the idea is to reduce by half until 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

70. In the field of sustainability, there is a training of 1,479 Committees for Water and Sanitation (CAS), the revitalization of 1,655 CAS, the training of 311 mechanical and local artisans, performing of preventive maintenance of water sources and training campaigns by the communities in the social area, which led that in 2014 the total operating disparate sources was 24,679.

71. On urban sanitation, 22,991 improved latrines were built in the per-urban areas, against 16,106 planned. Also built were 12,084 septic tanks. 142 municipal sanitation servicemen were trained. As for rural sanitation, during the year of 2014, 114,721 improved latrines were built and 841 communities were declared to be free of open defecation. On water supply, during the year 2014, 47,799 household connections were established in the urban area and 195 fountains were built.

72. Also on the list of the Government's efforts in this sector, water supply projects have been completed and others are still under way. These achievements mean a capacity to serve approximately 1,657,662 additional people. On average, the works carried out in the systems which are located in rural areas have been beneficial to 1,309,980 people being 635,896 men and 689,842 women. In the urban areas the systems built have been beneficial to 347,682 people, of whom 166,887 are men and 180,794 are women.

### **Access to Transport**

73. The current national situation of urban public transport, especially in big cities, requires restructuring and concrete action. The availability of existing means of transport, the state of the roads in some areas and traffic congestions make matters worse. Consequently, they reduce the number of trips that are taken by each transport, contributing to the overcrowding of available means of transport and disregard to all sorts of discipline. This is a cause for losing a lot of time at stops and terminals. From the studies that have been made, it was found that the mitigation of the transport problem does not only involve the acquisition of means of transport. It also requires the introduction of a technical and operational management model, the population growth evaluation, the introduction of dedicated routes and ticketing to ensure better planning and resources optimization. The Government is now considering the issue of carriage rates because this is a major concern for the players involved, to carry passengers in an efficient and smooth manner. In order to minimize the situation, in 2015, the Government proposed to provide, through public funds, 93 buses for public transportation of passengers. So far, 64 buses were bought and made available. They were distributed among all provincial capitals. In respect to the partnership platform with the private sector, more 50 buses are being purchased as well as other means of transport. Another tentative solution is taking steps to increase the number of trains. In this regard, the Government is under the process of purchasing 70 new vehicles, from which 62 are carriages for passengers and 8 are luggage vans that will also carry the carriages lighting generators.

### **Health and HIV/AIDS**

74. Investment in healthcare is one of the priorities under the social policies of the Government, because health is an asset and a right of all citizens. It is enshrined in article 116 of the CRM. It contributes to the affirmation of the principle of social justice that governs the Mozambican State. The main vector that guides this area is that all citizens, without exception, shall have access to the best health care whenever they need it and it is essential to ensure that people have quality care, timely, effectively and humanely.

75. Health promotion and community involvement are a key to the successful implementation of health programs. The information and education on health still continue to be the major priority, since it is a way of ensuring the population the right to information about health. It is also a means to facilitate access to this precious and vital resource. Information, education and communication are the instruments which have been introduced to change the behavior and adopt a healthy lifestyle. The relationship with the media has been strengthened, including with community radio stations and other mass media information to the occupation of antenna space spreading health promotion messages. The community involvement through the population informed participation in health organized committees and co-management remain one of the pillars of action. It is on course the creation and expansion of health committees within the communities and co-management of health facilities committees.

76. Overall, permanent improvement in the defined health indicators have been registered, namely: rate of outpatient visits, vaccination coverage rate of children under two years of age, institutional delivery coverage rate and expanding coverage of anti-retroviral treatment. The introduction of new vaccines in the immunization calendar as well as the focus on preventive action focusing on quality, integrated and comprehensive attention contributes greatly to reducing the infant mortality rate. However, in spite of the increased coverage of institutional deliveries, the country is still far from achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health services. For example, even though maternal mortality has decreased, we consider that the rate is still high. In the same vein, in the last decade, we

have registered high fertility rates, low prevalence in the use of modern contraceptive methods and the unmet needs for family planning.

77. In 2011, there were 1,435 health units and in 2014 the health network in urban and rural areas increased to 1,537 health units. Of these, 1,211 are maternity hospitals. This corresponds to 79%. Although the unmet health needs are high, improvements are visible in the health unit ratio per inhabitant and the improvement of attention and healthcare to population. In 2011 there were 977 medical doctors and 34,524 other health professionals, reaching the total of 35, 501 health professionals in the country. In 2014 these figures increased to 1,309 physicians and 42,772 other health professionals, reaching the total of 44, 081 health professionals.

78. The overall health picture in Mozambique shows that, on the one hand, poverty is an important factor for the major health problems. On the other hand, this sector greatly influences the socio-economic development due to reduced productivity and high costs involved in the prevention and control of diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis which are the main public health problems in the country. Malaria resulted in 3,344,413 notifications in 2011; 3,203,338 in 2012; 3,924,832 in 2013 and 5,463,800 cases in 2014. This figures show a growing number of cases that could be higher if the country had not implemented vector control activities such as the distribution of bed-nets and home spraying. In the period from 2011-2014, 11,041,194 mosquito nets were distributed through Massive Distribution Campaigns and 4,320,480 mosquito nets were distributed to pregnant women in prenatal consultation. In the same period, 33 out of 128 districts were pulverized each year against mosquito, reflecting more than 85% of the population coverage in the target districts.

79. The notification rate of TB cases has been increasing in recent years, showing a higher responsiveness of the National Health System which increases access to services. Despite the efforts made, the incidence of TB remains a challenge, a fact revealed was the discrepancy between the number of cases reported in the country and estimated by the World Health Organization. In addition, the absence of laboratory in each of the health facilities and staff trained for the purpose, are constraint to an increase in reported cases. The notification rate to 233/100,000 in 2014. Of the 58 270 TB cases reported in 2014, about 52% (29,337) simultaneously introduced the dual TB / HIV.

80. Regarding the Health of Women and Children, the 1st Antenatal Consultation coverage in the country is 91%, though there are constraints in the retaining and follow-up of pregnant women. About only 50% of these women make at least four visits during pregnancy as recommended by the World Health Organization. Only 54% of pregnant women have childbirth in a Health Unit (IDS, 2011). According to the SIS / MISAU, in 2014 the coverage of institutional deliveries rose to 71%, which directly influences the reduction of maternal deaths through favorable conditions for safe and assisted childbirth. It should be noted that the country has made progress by lowering maternal mortality rate by about 60%, that is, from 1000 to about 408 per 100,000 live births (IDS 2011). The country has achieved the target number 4 of the Millennium Development Goals with respect to reducing infant mortality. According to the IDS (2011) of the period 1996 to 2001 to the period 2006 to 2011, the country dropped from 106 % to 64%.

81. Still according to the data from the SIS / MISAU, the country recorded an increase in new users of family planning coverage of 23% in 2011 to 28% in 2014. Analysis and investment focused on maximizing access to information and services take place and highlight the inclusion of the provision of family planning at the community level to the benefit of access to these services to the most underprivileged people. The contraceptive prevalence rate is still below the desired level, 11.3% according to the IDS 2011, a challenge for the country.

82. Currently the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) is being implemented in 1,406 Health Units of the existing 1,537, which corresponds to coverage of 92%. In 2011 the program had 2,620 working fridges for the conservation of vaccines. By the year 2014 there was an increase of 17.5% thus bringing the number of working fridges to a total of 3,079. The EPI has registered increasing trends in coverage in fully immunized children. It evolved from 74% in 2011 to 82.4% in 2014, corresponding to a total of 604,293 immunized children. From 2011 to 2014, the program registered the introduction of new vaccine on the calendar, which is the Anti-pneumonic vaccine. In the same period, a strategy was piloted for the introduction of the vaccine against cervical cancer where it was possible to immunize a total of 5,877 10-year-old girls in 3 selected districts.

83. In recent decades, the health sector in Mozambique has faced great challenges compounded with the emergence of the HIV / AIDS, placing the country among the top 10 countries with the highest burden of the pandemic and contributes to 8% of all pediatric infections worldwide. It is estimated that 1.5 million people live with HIV. Of those, 800,000 are women and 200,000 are children below 15 years. Mozambique has an HIV prevalence of 11.5% among adults from 15-49 years (INSIDA, 2009). About 120,000 infections occur annually (GARPR 2014). The demographic group with the highest prevalence (16.8%) is the women aged 25 to 29 years. Among young people from 15-24 years of age the prevalence is higher among women (11.1%) than among men (3.7%).

84. The problem of HIV / AIDS is serious and dramatic. For that reason, the Government has undertaken various efforts in the sphere of prevention and fight against the pandemic, as exemplified by the creation of the National Council to Fight Against AIDS (CNCS). In the sphere of protection against discrimination, several legal provisions were approved and they protect people living with HIV / AIDS in employment and in other public places.

85. The role of NGOs has been fundamental in the implementation of the National Plan to Fight against AIDS. In general, the data for the reference period, still confirm the results of the Third Demographic and Health Surveys (IDS) conducted in 2011 that "reveal extraordinary progress in population health and challenges to be faced over the next years". Regarding the prevention of Mother to Child HIV transmission there have been considerable advances. The number of health facilities offering PMTCT increased from 1,063 in 2011 to 1,288 in 2014.

86. The introduction of universal access to Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) to HIV + pregnant women (option B +) in 2013 increased coverage of pregnant women receiving more effective schemes to reduce mother to child transmission from 72% in 2011 to 91% in 2014 (SIS / MOH). A rate of 8.7% of mother to child transmission was reached in 2014, an effort geared towards the elimination of mother to child transmission to less than 5%. With regard to access and coverage on anti-retroviral treatment (ART), there was a great evolution over the years. By the end of 2014 there were 753 health facilities which provided ART services at the national level, compared to 261 ART Health Facilities in 2011. This increase to services access led to the increase of patients on ART from 273,561 in 2011 to 646,312 in 2014 (SIS / MOH).

87. The scenario described above in relation to advances in access to and coverage of services of health care and HIV treatment including prevention of mother to child transmission has in some way, led to the improvement of the population's quality of life. Furthermore, life expectancy that was 52.4 years (women 54- men 50.4) in 2011 rose to 53.5 years (women - 54.5 and men 50.4) in 2014 (INE). Life expectancy that was 49 years in 2011 rose to 50 in 2013 (World Bank). Despite this progress, the Government still faces difficulties in fighting against HIV/AIDS. Major constraints include shortage of human resources, lack of medical supplies and equipment, limited coverage of the health network, high chronic malnutrition rates, lack of transportation and limited funding.



## **Work**

88. Work is a right and duty of all working age citizens and it is legally contained in article 84 of the CRM. It is regulated by a specific law (Labor Law, Law No. 23/2007, of August 1) to general cases, specifically for the private sector, and the General Staff Regulations of State Officials and Agents for civil servants. It should be noted that Mozambique is a party to several labor conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

89. Labor Law sets out the workers right to organize and collectively negotiate employment contracts and benefits. Under the above Law, trade unions have been responsible for negotiating wage increases under the tri-partite Social Dialogue mechanism comprising the Government, Employers and Trade Unions. The right to strike is constitutionally protected. Workers have been exercising this right in practice and they will continue to do so provided they comply with the conditions legally established. Forced or compulsory labor, including infant labor, is prohibited by law. Thus, whenever there are reports of legal offenses, the authorities take appropriate action against the offenders and they enforce the Law.

## **Child**

90. Mozambique has an estimated population of over 25 million inhabitants. Of these, 14,322,409 are aged between 0-19 years<sup>7</sup>. In other words, more than half of Mozambique's population is children. The implication is that about half the population is, by nature, a vulnerable group. In this context, the promotion of children's rights has always been a constitutional imperative and a matter of high priority to the country. In the Constitution, children's rights are contained in the provisions of Article 47. International instruments have been signed and ratified, including the Convention on the Children's Rights. Additional legislation to strengthen the Convention has been approved, such as the Infant Jurisdictional Statute (EJM), the Civil Code (CC), the Penal Code (CP), and the Family Law (LF), among others. Still under the Children Protection, the country adopted the Promotion Laws and Children Rights Protection, LPPDC (Law No. 7/2008 of 9 July), the Minors Guardianship Organization (Law # 8/2008 of 15 July) and of Prevention and Fighting Against Persons Trafficking Especially Women and Children (Law No. 6/2008 of 9 July).

91. To ensure coordination and joint efforts undertaken by various Government Institutions and civil society, organizations involved in promoting and protecting children's rights, the Government created the National Council for Children's Rights (CNAC). The CNAC is chaired by the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (MGCAS), and it integrates other Government institutions as well as representatives of the civil society organizations and religious bodies.

92. Strategies and medium and long-term programs for children have been adopted, mainly aimed at ensuring their economic growth and development. Worth mentioning is the National Action Plan for Children (PNAC). This instrument identifies key priorities in survival, protection and children development, taking as a fundamental basis the Government policies and strategies, namely the Government Five Year Plan, the PARP and agenda 2025 and its instruments for annual planning: Economic and Social Plan (PES), the State Budget (OE) and The Medium Term Fiscal Scenario (CFMP).

93. In 2012, the Government drew up the PNAC II for the period 2013-2019, with the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of children's rights. The PNAC II focus on the principles and rights set forth in CRM, in the approved legislation and in the ratified international instruments, the UN Committee's recommendations on the Children's Rights and the recommendations of the Children's Parliament and other fora.

94. The implementation of the PNAC has resulted in improved access of children to basic social services as well as greater protection at the level of families and communities. In this context, there are considerable achievements in improving reception conditions, assistance and integration of orphan / abandoned children and other children in difficult conditions. This is in addition to the actions of solidarity nature within the communities since it is recognized that the institutional capacity to meet the child in difficult conditions, including victims of violence, is still below the desired levels.

95. If one considers that the family environment is the best suited for children's good and harmonious development, the Government has established policies and programs aimed at strengthening the capacity of families and communities to care for their children. The Government implements through the National Institute of Social Action (INAS), an institution subordinated to MGCAS, assistance programs for vulnerable groups including children. On the whole, the Direct Social Support Program (DSAP) and the Social Basic Subsidy Program (PSSB) assists about 400,000 households in vulnerable situations every year. It is noteworthy in this universe to provide assistance to 6,761 households headed by children, in most cases because they are orphans. In 2012 was started the implementation of the Productive Social Action Program in which vulnerable people with working capacity are integrated. This program brought benefits to 9683 households in urban and rural areas.

96. In the context of strengthening the families and communities capacity, through the Government Programs and various organizations actions, more than 900 000 children were annually assisted at the community level in food provisions, school supplies, miscellaneous equipment kits, poverty certificates, mosquito nets and clothing. Still in the context of children protection measures, 6,468 children were reunited with their families or integrated into adoptive and host families.

97. With regard to sexual abuse, despite the disapproval of specific legislation, some laws which have already been approved, as it happens with the Labor Law that contains provisions concerning the Infant Work, Children's Access to Night Fun Public Places and the consumption of alcohol and tobacco, Law No. 6/99 of 2 February, adding to refer to the provisions contained in the Penal Code, approved by Law 35/2014 of 31 December in particular article 179 (mistreatment or minors extra work load, elderly or disabled ); article 219 (above twelve years minor rape), article 220 (sexual intercourse with minors), article 227 (with slavery), article 228 (minors corruption), can be applied, and should effectively be monitored to protect minors and severely punish the offenders.

98. Birth registration has been done by the MJCR, through the National Directorate of Registries and Notaries. In the period from 2010 to 2014, they carried out a monitoring and routine birth registration process and printing of registration materials that led to a five-year record of 3,453,482 children aged 0 to 5 years old. But it is a fact that better ways to extend coverage involving MGCAS, MOH and civil society organizations should be devised.

99. The challenges set for this area include the fighting against child trafficking and answers to the street children issue. It has been pointed out that it is important to continue to ensure the "domestication" of international conventions ratified to ensure children protection.

### **Access to Justice**

100. Access to Legal Assistance in Mozambique is guided by the constitutional principle of legal pluralism expressed in Article 4 of CRM. This means that citizens are free to resort to formal and informal justice bodies, provided that the latter do not undermine the principles of the rule of law founded on legality.

101. This principle must be read together with Article 62 also of CRM which provides free access of citizens to the courts, assistance and legal representation and protection. In

practical terms, in order to materialize the right of access to justice by citizens, the state has created the Institute for Legal Assistance and Representation (IPAJ). This is an institution, under the MJCR, whose function is to ensure the realization of the right to protection by providing sponsorship and free legal assistance to the economically disadvantaged citizen.

102. Aiming to ensure that justice is accessible to all, the IPAJ covers the entire national territory and it has established offices in all 11 provinces. During the period 2010-2014, IPAJ further expanded its territorial coverage, achieving the number of 140 districts, out of 148. Of these, in 135 the presence is physical while for the remaining regime and 5 the coverage is ambulatory. Within the period above, 462 059 economically less advantaged citizens benefited from legal aid and legal representation.

103. The tenets of separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary and the creation of civil society organizations aimed at defending the rights of citizens are the most prominent instruments for giving effective access to justice to citizens. In this perspective, the judiciary is one of the most important guarantees.

104. The justice administration sector has been going through major reforms. These include the development of a legal and institutional framework, the judicial network expansion, the creation and commissioning of Superior Courts of Appeal. This will allow for the relief of other courts in the enforcement of verdicts. The reforms also include the expansion and operation of regional administrative courts, the creation and operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission and the PJ, and the establishment of Conflict Mediation and Arbitration Centers. These are remarkable developments, but prevailing challenges to citizen satisfaction require increased efforts of the state and of the society in general.

## **V. The need for technical assistance**

105. The Republic of Mozambique has been making tremendous efforts in meeting its international obligations concerning major human rights instruments. However, the economic challenges faced by the country have been a limiting factor for even greater achievements. Therefore, Mozambique welcomes technical assistance and international cooperation particularly for capacity building in the following areas:

- Strengthening of the institutional and operational capacity for the administration of justice, in particular by increasing the number of courts, more training for magistrates and court officials and the improvement of living conditions for inmates and detention places;
- Translation of key national, regional and international human rights legal instruments into national languages and the need for conducting outreach activities;
- Support to different ministries involved in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Support for the full operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission;
- Intensifying public education on Human Rights;
- Update the school curriculum on Human Rights.

## **VI. Main challenges**

106. The implementation of the universal principles of human rights is an imperative for the Mozambican Government at the domestic, regional and global levels. In this context,

the main priorities were summarized in this report. The Government of Mozambique remains committed and engaged in further ratifying or acceding to key international legal instruments to which the country is not yet a party to. We also pledge to submit, on a regular basis, the relevant reports to the United Nations Treaty Bodies. Internally, Mozambique renews its pledge and readiness to further disseminate the knowledge and practice of human rights. They are at the core of its Constitution. We believe this can be done by strengthening state institutions and encouraging the participation of the civil society (NGOs, media, etc.), as instruments for promoting and protecting human rights.

107. Finally, Mozambique will continue to make its best efforts in the fight against poverty. The Government will continue to promote deep reforms in critical sectors whose performance is still not satisfactory. This will be made in the context of the re-affirmation of our country as a democratic state governed by the rule of law, particularly through the realization of access to justice, in the Correctional Facility system reform, in the labor area, on gender equality, children's rights protection, the right to adequate housing, legal reform and HIV / AIDS. Mozambique is also committed to strengthening the institutional capacity of promoting and protecting human rights.

#### *Notes*

- <sup>1</sup> Executive, Legislative and Judicial.
  - <sup>2</sup> Article 133 of CRM.
  - <sup>3</sup> PGR (2013). PGR Annual Statement to the PR, May 2013.
  - <sup>4</sup> CRM (2004) – Art 36.
  - <sup>5</sup> Education for All.
  - <sup>6</sup> MINED (2012) – Education Strategy 2012-2016.
  - <sup>7</sup> INE, Planning for 2015.
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